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CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY, ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, IMPUNITY

Written statement* submitted by North-South XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 December 1999]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization.

MUNIA ABU-JAMAL SENTENCED TO DEATH

1. The black American journalist Abu-Jamal, sentenced to death in 1982, has just had his petition turned down by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania.

2. Abu-Jamal has not had a fair trial. After being arrested following a gunfight with the police, to which there were no witnesses, and convicted following a summary investigation, he has just been tried by a court whose members are elected and who are closely linked to the Fraternal Order of Police, a very repressive organization that is particularly hostile to black American movements.

3. The Federal Supreme Court cannot try the case on its merits, as a last resort.

4. The Commission on Human Rights should intervene to save Munia Abu-Jamal, who has been sentenced to death for reasons that have nothing to do with respect for the law.

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